



Friends of Jockey's Ridge

P.O. Box 358 ♦ Nags Head, NC 27959

The Board of Directors

Craig Honeycutt, Chair
Ann-Cabell Baum, Vice
Chair
Holly Nettles, Secretary
Jeanne Brook, Treasurer
Al Friedman
Lauren Nelson
Julie Walter
George Barnes
Billy Moseley
Steve Brook
Bob Muller

January 22, 2024

Coastal Resources Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Jockey's Ridge to express our strong support for the readoption of Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) status for Jockey's Ridge State Park. The Friends of Jockey's Ridge is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advocacy of Jockey's Ridge State Park, working collaboratively to protect and promote the environmental, scientific, and cultural significance of this unique coastal geologic formation in Nags Head, North Carolina.

The recent decision by the Rules Review Commission to potentially remove this crucial designation poses a significant threat to the environmental integrity and long-term well-being of this unique coastal geologic formation.

Jockey's Ridge holds immense ecological, scientific, and cultural significance, making it a vital treasure that requires thoughtful preservation measures. The AEC designation, as outlined in 15A NCAC 07H.0507, acknowledges Jockey's Ridge as a unique coastal geologic formation and places it under environmental protection, emphasizing the importance of preventing uncontrolled or incompatible development that could jeopardize its irreplaceable features.

The benefits and protections offered by the AEC designation are indispensable for the preservation of Jockey's Ridge. One such advantage is the regulation that ensures sand migrating off the state property is replenished on the dune, maintaining its volume and preventing relocation or commercial sale. Furthermore, the AEC designation not only safeguards the park from undesirable development but also brings national attention, as evidenced by its listing on the National Park Service website.

During the recent public meeting held by the Coastal Resources Commission, Nags Head Mayor Ben Cahoon highlighted the urgency of the situation. An AEC requires a closer examination of proposed activities and intervention, providing time to consider the consequences of actions that could impact this environmental treasure. The national recognition garnered through the AEC designation further enhances the visibility of Jockey's Ridge, attracting visitors from across the country.

We understand the complexities surrounding the Rules Review Commission's actions and the challenges posed by changes in legislative law. However, we firmly believe that the reinstatement of the AEC status is crucial for the continued protection of Jockey's Ridge. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this natural landmark for future generations and ensure that it remains accessible for scientific, educational, and recreational purposes.

In conclusion, we urge the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission to act swiftly and decisively in



Friends of Jockey's Ridge

P.O. Box 358 ♦ Nags Head, NC 27959

support of the readoption of AEC status for Jockey's Ridge State Park. Your commitment to preserving this unique coastal geologic formation is paramount in maintaining the ecological balance and cultural significance that Jockey's Ridge holds for the community and visitors alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to the continued protection of Jockey's Ridge State Park.

Sincerely,

Craig Honeycutt,

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Friends of Jockey's Ridge

*This organization is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization, IRS Section 170(b)(2)(iii) for both federal and state tax purposes.
Our federal tax identification number is 56-1739047.*